

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
JUNE 17, 2015**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor Terry Seitz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call.

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm called the roll.

Mayor Terry Seitz	Present
Council members:	
Gregory Schnarr	Present
David Prechtel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Earl Schmitt	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Present
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. All seven council members were in attendance which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Seitz invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes.

The following minutes were distributed to and examined by the Council:

1. May 20, 2015 regular common council meeting

A motion was made by Council member David Prechtel and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Hearing for CF-1/PP noncompliance-Stens. At the May 20, 2015 council meeting, the council found Stens LLC not in substantial compliance with its tax abatement statement of benefits for personal property. If a property owner is found in noncompliance, they are entitled to a hearing.

Mayor Seitz opened the hearing for Stens LLC for failure to attain substantial compliance regarding its personal property tax abatement.

John Bauersfeld, Mike Land, and Jill King from Stens LLC were present. Several days prior to the meeting, John Bauersfeld, vice president of Stens LLC, forwarded a letter to the city council stating the status of their business in regards to the tax abatement. Bauersfeld reviewed the content of that letter. He said Stens met the capital investment but only created 28 new positions instead of adding 98 employees. Bauersfeld explained that they were not able to create as many positions as projected because of the following changes: [1] acquisitions and merger, [2] process improvements, [3] strategic direction, [4] digital world, [5] healthcare, [6] taxes. He explained the changes in each category.

As a result of these changes, Stens is changing their new positions forecast to four additional positions in calendar year 2015 and four additional positions in calendar year 2016 bringing the new total to 36 positions instead of 98 positions.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick said when the economic development commission scored Stens tax abatement application, Stens received 115 points for a ten-year abatement. If they had used 28-36 new employees instead of 98 employees, they would have scored 112 points thus being eligible for the same amount of abatement.

Council member Randall Buchta asked Bauersfeld how much of the change that Stens did was the reason they did not hire 70 more employees. Bauersfeld said a lot of change in hiring additional employees was not done because of the merger and acquisitions. This action caused duplication in certain positions, thus eliminating some positions or causing some employees to relocate.

After Stens finished with their comments, Mayor Seitz closed the hearing.

Action as a result of Stens hearing. City Attorney Renee Kabrick said now the council needs to determine whether or not Stens CF-1 for personal property is in substantial compliance.

Council member Gregory Schnarr asked when the mergers and acquisitions occurred. Bauersfeld said January 2014. The tax abatement resolution for Stens was approved in October 2012 and the statement of benefits said the project should be completed by December 31, 2013. Schnarr commented that the additional employee number on the application vs. the number of actual new positions is way off plus some of the jobs are being relocated to others places and not staying in Jasper.

Council member Kevin Manley said a business should be able to adjust its plan when major factors affect the original business plans.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to find the Stens personal property tax abatement is in substantial compliance. Motion carried 6-1 with Council members David Prechtel, Thomas Schmidt, Earl Schmitt, Kevin Manley, Randall Buchta, and Raymond Howard voting aye while Council member Gregory Schnarr voted nay.

Review tax abatement compliance form [CF-1/real property]-Haddad Properties LLC. Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for real property for 2015 pay 2016 from Haddad Properties LLC were previously submitted to the council members for their review.

A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to find that Haddad Properties LLC is in substantial compliance with its statement of benefits for real property [CF-1/real property]. Motion carried 6-1 with Council members David Prechtel, Thomas Schmidt, Earl Schmitt, Kevin Manley, Randall Buchta, and Raymond Howard voting aye and with Council member Gregory Schnarr voting nay.

Utility Service Board. General Manager of Utilities Gerald ‘Bud’ Hauersperger gave a report on the regular monthly Utility Service Board meeting held on June 15, 2015. A copy of the Utility Service Board minutes is supplied to each council member.

E-Notify. Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director Cale Knies said after a boil order was issued last year to Jasper water utility customers, the City looked at how it could improve its notification system. The City looked at different systems and discussed this matter with Huntingburg, Ferdinand, and Dubois County officials. Jasper, Huntingburg, and Ferdinand use the same website vendor, E-Gov. E-Gov has a mass notification system called E-Notify that could satisfy the needs of all three entities. Knies said system details are still being worked out. If one wants to participate in the program, they will sign up and determine how they want to receive messages; for example, by website, text, and/or email. Knies said funding for this system will come out of his budget.

Mayor Seitz noted that this system will not be used for emergency weather notification.

Redevelopment Commission-General Fund annual report from Treasurer to Council. Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm reported on the financial status of the Redevelopment Commission, Fund 2431 Redevelopment Commission-General Fund, for the year 2014. A report containing the January 1, 2014 beginning balance, the 2014 revenue and expenditures, and the December 31, 2014 ending fund balance was distributed to the council members.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-16 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA, FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

This ordinance appropriates money in various funds for the 2015 budget for known projects or contracts.

A notice to taxpayers appeared in the Herald on June 6, 2015.

Mayor Seitz asked for comments from the public. No comments were received.

A motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Gregory Schnarr to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Earl Schmitt and seconded by Council member Raymond Howard to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2015-16. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-17 AN ORDINANCE AFFIXING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE UTILITY EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2015 (AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-24)

This ordinance adds the following differential rate under the Water and Gas Utilities section of the salary ordinance.

Gas Line Welding Differential 10.00/hr

General Manager of Utilities Gerald 'Bud' Hauersperger said the Gas Utility Department used to hire a contractor for about \$90 per hour whenever they needed gas lines welded. Recently an employee in that department has become a certified technician and is able to do such work. If the ordinance is adopted, that employee will be compensated an additional \$10 per hour for the time he spends welding gas lines.

A motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Thomas Schmidt to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Gregory Schnarr and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2015-17. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-18 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE BONDING OF CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH (REPEAL 2012-14)

This ordinance updates the required bonding information for City employees.

A motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Gregory Schnarr and seconded by Council member Raymond Howard to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and

seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2015-18. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfer funds from Riverboat Fund to Rainy Day Fund. Council member Randall Buchta said when the City prepares the 2016 budget and the balance of the 2015 budget, he would like the 2015 financial records to include paying back the Rainy Day Fund from the Riverboat Fund for the difference between the cost of the Parklands property [\$1,087,795] less what has been placed in the Rainy Day Fund from the sale of 10 acres to the school [\$173,445] and the net sale of the 30th Street Park and the Lechner property [\$489,044].

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved _____ with X without corrections or clarification this 22nd day of July, 2015.

**Mayor Terry Seitz,
Presiding Officer**

Attest: _____
Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer